

POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

21 October 1982 Vol 1 No 27

35p

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How to submit articles

Articles which are submitted for publication
should not be more than 1000 words long.

All submissions should be typed and a double
space should be left between each line.

Programs should, whenever possible, be
computer printed.

At present we cannot guarantee to return
every submitted article, so please keep a copy.

Accuracy

Popular Computing Weekly cannot accept any
responsibility for any errors in programs we
publish, although we will always try our best to
make sure programs work.

This Week



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Editorial

The Hunt committee report on cable
tv, due to be published on Tuesday
October 12, could change the face of
British television.

The report is believed to favour the
setting up of a cable network for all of
Britain's major towns and cities. Given
the go-ahead by the government, tele-
vision viewers could be watching their
first cable tv programmes within two to
three years. As many as 30 different
channels could be available, compared
to the present three.

But, if the Hunt committee's report
has serious implications for tv, it has
no less serious implications for micro-
computers. The linking up by cable of
Britain's towns and cities would pro-
vide microcomputer users with unpa-
ralleled opportunities for the creation
of their own networks.

Once a cable system has been
established, it should not be difficult to
cater for both tv and microcomputer
users. The only real problem is the
initial cost of laying the cable, but that
is something the prospective cable tv
operators should pay for.

With cable networks readily avail-
able, Prestel's Micronet 800 scheme
could find it has competitors sooner
than it first thought.

Next Week



Can you survive
the perils of the haunted
house? Find out in *Halloween* —
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Acorn joins the classroom battle

ACORN Computers has announced its own discount scheme to assist the Department of Industry's efforts to encourage the use of microcomputers in schools.

This follows the launch of a similar scheme by Sinclair Research in September (see *Popular Computing Weekly*, September 30).

Under the Acorn offer, any school — primary or secondary, state or public — that

buys a BBC Model B microcomputer will also receive a free Econet interface, value £46. The discount is valid for any purchase — under the Dol scheme or not — and for every machine purchased by a school. There is no limit on the number of machines per school to which the offer applies.

An Acorn spokesman explained: "Acorn believe Econet and schools go hand in

hand. The BBC machine was designed for networking in the classroom."

The company hopes schools will buy one BBC micro plus disc interface (including the free Econet interface) at half price under the Dol offer, and then buy further machines with the free networking interface fitted. In this way the Dol machine will operate as the master file server and the others will be able to access its discs through the Econet system.

The Acorn scheme runs until the end of 1984. Acorn estimate that by then the offer will have been worth over £5m to the 32,000 eligible schools.

New range of business micros

A RANGE of small business microcomputers and software has been announced by a new company, Information and Technology Computer Services.

The Andromeda series includes 36 models, each supplied with a selection of software, costing between £595 and £3295.

ITCS director, David Lewis-Pryce said: "We offer a completely new approach — the user buys the software and gets the hardware on a free loan."

At the low-cost end of the range is the Alpha O. This unit consists of the Z80 processor, 63-key Qwerty board, and 125K disc drive. Also included are ITCS Word-processing and Data-management packages. The system costs £595 plus £120 per annum maintenance.

More expensive options include dual 125K disc drives and a 12-inch video monitor. These variants are accompanied by Financial Planning, Integrated Accounting and Communications software packages.

Said David Lewis-Pryce: "The Andromeda range has been launched with the intention of its becoming a serious contender as the world's leading microcomputer."

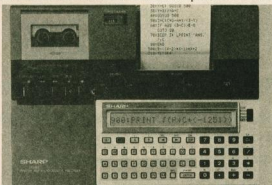
Extended Basic to put in your pocket

SHARP is to launch a new pocket-size microcomputer in time for Christmas.

Called the PC-1251, it is an improved version of the PC-1211. Despite its small size — 5½ × 2½ × ¾ inch — the PC-1251 has 24K Rom and 4.2K Ram and runs a version of Basic extended from that on

back-up when the machine is not in use.

Also available, to connect to the new computer, is the CE-125 integrated printer/microcassette recorder. The PC-1251 clips into this unit which allows programs to be easily saved on to tape and gives a 24-character print-out from the



Sharp PC 1251 with CE-125 printer/microcassette recorder.

the PC-1211 including *Dim*, *Strs* and *Inkeys* commands.

The new machine features a Qwerty-style keyboard with separate numeric pad and a 24 character 5 × 7 dot matrix liquid-crystal display. It will work for up to 300 hours on one battery, and memory in Ram is protected by a battery

unit's thermal printer. The CE-125 is powered by a rechargeable Ni-Cad battery.

The complete system — PC-1251 plus CE-125 — has the dimensions of an inch-thick A5 paperback book.

Available at the beginning of December, the PC-1251 will cost £79.95 including VAT.

Clive has vision of the year 1990

CLIVE Sinclair has predicted the disintegration of manufacturing industries in the UK by 1990.

"The idea that we need a manufacturing industry to pay for the rest of our society is a fallacy," he said, speaking on



Clive Sinclair.

the BBC 2 television programme, *Futures*, on October 7.

"The truth is that Britain is in the wrong part of the world to make conventional goods. By the 1990s we must turn from the products of the material to products of the mind. We are a particularly creative people and where others can produce, we can design. Hong Kong manufacturers are even now ready to employ our best freelance industrial designers. In the next decades China and India will become the great producing nations.

"I believe the next 15 years will be among the most momentous in our economic history — we are on the edge of the most sweeping and rapid changes we have ever seen," he said.

April '83 date for festival of computers

THE Association of London Computer Clubs plans to hold the capital's first Computer Festival next Spring.

The event, including open days, seminars, exhibitions and workshops, will be held from April 3 to 17. Central Hall will see an exhibition from April 14 to 16, and a conference is being organised at City University.

For further details contact Robin Bradbeer, Association of London Computer Clubs, The Polytechnic of North London, London N7.

Information Technology '82 doubles fund target

ONLY half the money donated to finance Information Technology Year '82 has been provided by the computer industry. Less than half that has

come from UK companies.

The City and oil companies have provided the bulk of the funding. So far £1.5m has been supplied which has been

matched by a promised government contribution making a total of £3m.

This figure is more than double the IT '82 target.

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Letters

write to Letters, Popular Computing Weekly, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2

Copywriting English words

I saw an advertisement in the *Daily Telegraph*, September 27, which disturbs me very much. I am referring to Atari's alleged claim to the name *Defender* together with alleged rights concerning a video game of that name.

Let me explain what disturbs me. The word *Defender* is one that is in common English usage — particularly in the games of football and chess. I cannot for the life of me see how a common English word can suddenly be tied up in this way — if they had called it *Atari-defender* that would be very different.

I do not see how this name can be tied up even if linked to a game concept either. Where is the line to be drawn? Is *Protector* going to be an infringement? In which case maybe Atari are at fault since a book by Larry Niven is so titled and a game based on that book would surely be legitimate.

Secondly, I do not see why Atari should have what I consider to be the monumental cheek of demanding others to get in touch with them. Surely the onus is on Atari to get in touch with others if they consider that their copyright is being infringed. I think I could make out a good case for their publishing listings as part of the public claim to copyright. I suspect that, when put to the test, copyright in computer listings will turn out to be very similar to musical copyright, in which case Atari are attempting to stand on some non-existent legs! At any rate they are trying to establish some kind of precedent — and I believe that to allow them to do so will be very dangerous and costly indeed.

Finally, they say they were first with this game — but how do we know? And how much of what they are trying to tie up in this way is merely a general concept finding expression in a computer listing? It has something of the flavour of Wilkie Collins suing Charles Dickens because Collins wrote the first detective story, *The Moonstone Mystery*; and in *Bleak House* Dickens made use of the detective Inspector Bucket. In my view Atari are

trying to tie down to copyright far too broad a concept and if they succeed we shall all be the losers.

As an ordinary "consumer" I would urge those whose interest lies in developing games not to be put off — so long as they do not descend to plagiarism. I suspect we have some careful defining to do, and I suspect also that Atari's present position will be laughed out of court.

R J Redrup
The Vicarage
Kea
Truro
Cornwall TR3 6AE

Sticky fingering

I have had a ZX81 with 16K I-Ram pack since March. I cannot afford a proper keyboard yet, so I use Sello-tape sticky fixers which I stick on to the pads to make a temporary keyboard. I find this is a great help, especially when playing games. I thought you might be interested to know this in case other people want to try it.

Nicholas Butterworth
18 Hillyfields
Dunstable
Bedfordshire LU6 3NS

Backchat and criticism

Your correspondence is getting very interesting, not to say controversial. I enjoyed the backchat from Messrs Wiseman and Meardon (issue 22).

In the same issue, Keith Driscoll's correction of the Sinclair manual refers to 'the ZX81 manual'. I would maintain that this is a well publicised item, long predating your publication. The earliest reference I can find is in an *Interface* book dated August 1981. I have however seen this mentioned in magazines quite regularly. If it's the only error in the manual worth mentioning, then it's some manual.

Items from the Spectrum manual may interest some readers. Page 114, bottom, gives extended mode numeral key values to pretty up listings. The *ChrS* values printed are wrong in two instances, and the actual *ChrS* values obtained are consistent with

the table at the top of the same page. Thus, in extended mode:

9 GIVES *ChrS* 19 (not 12) + *ChrS* 1
CAPS SHIFT 9 GIVES *ChrS* 18 (not
19) + *ChrS* 1

C J Hewish
13 Beacon Road
London SE13 6EQ

How on earth?

I was watching an ITV news bulletin on September 21 when on came an item about the Prime Minister's visit to Japan. It stated that Mrs Thatcher awarded the Japanese Premier an English-built computer, a Sinclair Spectrum. I would like to know when Mrs Thatcher ordered her Spectrum and how long it took for her to get it, because I have been waiting 18 weeks for mine.

Christopher Watson
33 Laneside Drive
Bramhall
Cheshire

Grainy offering

I hope he will forgive me for saying so, but I feel there is a better solution to John Grain's number reversal problem than that offered by Ian Beardsmore. John's letter implied that he wanted a variable to be reversed, and what he was offered is a string reversal. May I humbly suggest:

```
10 INPUT X
20 LET XS = STR$ X
30 FOR J = LEN(XS) TO 1 STEP -1
40 LET XS = XS + XS(J)
50 NEXT J
60 LET X = VAL XS (LEN XS / 2 + 1 TO)
70 PRINT X
```

This truly reverses the value of the variable entered and, by the way, offers an example of the much neglected reverse *Step* function available on the ZX81.

Nick Godwin
4 Hurkur Crescent
Eyemouth
Berwickshire
Scotland TD14 5AP

Jumping out of hibernation

I would like to thank all the people who have sent me details of 'bugs' in the Spectrum. In response to their interest, I would like to give the details of the latest 'bugs' to

come out of hibernation.

1. The *ChrS* 8 error. The programmer has tested against the 'wrong limit' and hence backspacing to the top line is not possible. However, if on the top line backspacing is possible, but 'never never land' is reached when backspacing from location '0,0'.

2. The *Screen* error. The resultant string obtained by using *ScreenS* is stored twice on the calculator stack — instead of once as it should be. Hence:

```
10 PRINT "12"
20 PRINT ScreenS (0,0) +  
   ScreenS (0,1)
```

gives '22' instead of the expected '12'. The problem can be avoided by using temporary strings for each call to *ScreenS*, or by avoiding the use of *ScreenS* after a binary operator.

3. The *StrS* error. Have you tried:

```
PRINT "A" + StrS 0.1 which gives only '0.1'
```

```
or  
PRINT 1 + VAL StrS 0.1 which gives only '0.1'
```

It appears that when the operand of *StrS* is between 'minus one' and 'plus one', but not zero, that an extra zero is put on the calculator stack. Hence there are more stacked results than stacked operations and the extra result is lost. Again, the problem can be avoided by using temporary strings or taking care after binary operators.

4. The *Close* error. There is no 'end-marker' at the end of the 'close stream look-up' tables so using *Close#4* before stream 4 has been opened leads one once again to 'never never land' and returning is problematical.

I suspect that there are further 'bugs' in the expression evaluation routines but these are not apparent in Basic as yet.

Ian Logan
24 Nurses Lane
Skellingthorpe
Lincoln LN6 5TT

If you have an opinion you want to express, or have spotted an error that needs correcting, write to: Letters, Popular Computing Weekly, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2.

COVER STORY

Moon Landing

A new game for Vic20

by Czes Kosniowski

You are the commander of a lunar module. The module is in free fall, having detached itself from the mother ship. Your task is to soft-land the module on the moon's surface, using your retro-rocket (space bar) to slow your descent.

However, your fuel is limited, so you will have to exercise your judgement when determining your speed. Too fast and the module will explode. Too slow and you will run out of fuel, causing the module to crash.

This program will run on any Vic20, with or without any memory expansion. Line 80 takes care of the various changes that occur when 8K or more of memory is added.

The computer gives a visual display (with sound) of your velocity, height and the amount of fuel left. You must not exceed a speed of 100, otherwise your module explodes. Try and land at a velocity of under 10 — it's not easy the first few times, but it is possible.

Lines 60-90 these set up the initial variables.

Lines 100-260 set up the initial visual display.

Lines 190 and 200 are the various Poke numbers needed for the visual display.

Lines 270-400 are the main loop of the game.

Lines 410-660 contain various print outs and displays for the end of the game.

Lines 670-790 are subroutines for the ending.

Lines 800-900 plot the fuel and display the fuel counter.

Lines 910-950 plot velocity and height.

Lines 960-990 display the velocity and height counters.




```

10 REM *****
20 REM * ROOM LAYOUT *
30 REM * BY *
40 REM *CDS KOSMOSK*
50 REM *****
60 REM SETTING UP
70 POKES679,24:POKEEX(3686)
80 C=PEEK(441)+18:V=V+44-40C284:GO=3686+4MS12
90 S=36878:SA=5-1:SZ=5-2:SZ=5-3
100 PRINT"CLR|BLU|VELOCITYWEIGHTFUEL"
110 PRINT"CC3|TWL","100","14C3"50.
120 W=V+77:FF=V+7
130 PRINT"CHRE|C3"
140 FOR L=1 TO 19
150 PRINT"ACR|DRE3" [BLU|CVS] [OFF] [CORN|CVS] [OFF|BLU] "
160 NEXT L
170 PRINT"RE3" [BLU] [CORN] [CHRE3]
180 POKEX2,4:POKEV,160
190 W=8+96:W1=100:W2=111:W3=121
200 W4=98:W5=948:W6=947:W7=927
210 V=40*WAND(1)
220 F=168:W=168:W3=1.8:FU=3+.4*WAND(1)
230 POKEFF+21,46
240 POKEFF+22,57
250 POKEFF+23,57
260 POKES,15:POKES4,135:POKES3,135
270 REM START OF GAME
280 PEEK(197)+32:THENDOSUB9800
290 W=V+7
300 POKES4,128+INT(W*127/280)
310 POKES3,128+INT(W*127/280)
320 IFV<10:THENDPOKES3,128+INT(V)
330 POKEV+20,44-50H(V)
340 W=V+21:V=85(V) :DOSUB9818
350 W=V+20:V=85(V) :DOSUB9818
360 POKEX+3,40+INT(W*81)-10*INT(W)
370 W=INT(W/8):V=INT(V-80):Z=V+DOSUB9818
380 W=V+81
390 W=INT(W/8):V=INT(V-80):Z=V+DOSUB9818
400 IFV<10:THENDPOKEX+3,40+INT(W*81)-10*INT(W)
410 REM END OF GAME
420 PRINT"CHRE|C3|BLU| VELOCITY ="INT(V)
430 IFV<10:THENDPRINT"BLU|YOU WENT TOO FAST AND " "EXPLODED"
440 IFV<10:THENDPRINT"BLU| CORN LANE"
450 IFV<10:THENDPRINT"CC3|NOT BRO BUT "INT(5*WAND(1))+100:SUB9818,768,778
760,768
460 IFV<10:THENDPRINT"CC3|BLU| WELL DONE"
470 POKES,8:POKES4,228
480 FOR L=1 TO STEP-1
490 POKES,1
500 FOR I=1 TO 50:HEXTI
510 NEXT I
520 POKES,15
530 FOR L=1 TO 50:SUB9878:HEXTI
540 POKES687,138
550 FOR I=1 TO 200:HEXTI
560 FOR L=1 TO 200:STEP-1:SUB9878:HEXTI
570 POKES686,85
580 FOR I=1 TO 200:HEXTI
590 POKES4,8:POKES5,8
600 FOR I=1 TO 1000:HEXTI
610 PRINT"CC3|FUR| ANOTHER DOT Y OR N [BLU]"
620 POKEX,8
630 GET# IF#="" THEN#630
640 IF#="Y" THEN#600
650 PRINT"CLR|BLU|C3| OK BYE FOR NOW|C3"
660 END
670 REM PART OF END
680 POKES4,230+L
690 POKES684,12+L
700 POKES685,39+L
710 POKES686,85+L
720 POKES687,174+L
730 RETURN
740 REM PART OF END
750 PRINT"YOU AND A LUCKY ESCAPE" RETURN
760 PRINT"YOUR DOT IS RUINED" RETURN
770 PRINT"THE IMPACT BROKE YOUR LEGS " RETURN
780 PRINT"YOU'RE RUINED FOR LIFE" RETURN
790 PRINT"YOUR LICENSE HAS BEEN REVOKED
800 REM FUEL PLOT AND COUNTER
810 IF C1,5 THEN RETURN
820 F=F+1
830 F1=INT(F/8)
840 F2=INT(F-8*F1)
850 IF F1=1:THENDPOKEFF-F1+20:WFF2
860 IF F1=1:THENDPOKEFF-F1+22-56
870 POKEFF+22,40+INT(F/16,81)
880 POKEFF+23,40+INT(F/1,681)-10*INT(F/16,81)
890 W=V+9
900 RETURN
910 REM VELOCITY AND HEIGHT PLOT
920 POKEX,40+INT(V/180)
930 POKEX-1,40+INT(V/181)-10*INT(V/180)
940 POKEX-2,40+INT(V)-10*INT(V/18)
950 RETURN
960 REM VELOCITY AND HEIGHT COUNTER
970 IF C=1:THEND POKEX+22,160
980 IF C=1:THEND POKEX+22,160
990 IF C=1:THEND POKEX+22,160
1000 RETURN

```

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Command performance at 16

David Kelly talks to David Simons — the Commodore kid — about Simons' Basic

When David Simons presented his Vic20 Basic enhancement package to Commodore, they jumped at it. They called off a team working in the US to produce a similar package for the new Commodore 64. David was commissioned instead.

He is 16 years old and has been programming since his father brought home an 8K 2001 Pet — what he calls Arthur C Clarke's version — in 1978. At first, David was interested in games but he soon began modifying the cassettes he bought to make them better.

"That's how I got to know Basic. The first game I wrote was a version of Monopoly which did everything except mortgages — with only 8K I ran out of memory. I got into machine-code using a Rockwell book for the Aim-65 and then had one or two things published in the *American Pet Magazine* and in the Commodore house magazine."

In the October 1980 issue of *Commodore Club News* David had a program — *Super Basic* — published which extended the Pet Basic to give it some of the facilities of the Apple, including shape tables and pseudo high-resolution.

Demonstration program

Shortly before the Vic20 was launched, David was asked to write part of a dealer demonstration program to accompany the machine. Although the work was never used, David also developed a Basic enhancement package for the Vic20. It defines, in 8K, a range of new commands which can be called from the keyboard. "It was much more exciting to use than the Pet" he explains. "Everything in the Basic is vectored, making it possible to have proper tokenised key-words. To do the same thing on the Pet would have involved rewriting whole chunks of the Basic."

When he finished the software package, he presented it to Commodore in Slough. They took it on with the intention of marketing it for the Vic. However, by March the Commodore 64 was appearing on the horizon.

Plans for Commodore to produce an extended Basic Rom cartridge for the new machine were shelved and David was commissioned to convert his 8K Vic Basic for use on the Commodore 64.

At this point 'O' levels interrupted the proceedings. It was June before David could get down to converting the program, using a Commodore 64 prototype supplied by the company.

The package is now finished. David has done rather more than a simple conversion

— the package now occupies 16K of code. Simons' Basic, as it has been dubbed, can be broadly divided into three parts according to the areas of the 64 Basic which it enhances. High resolution graphics and sound which at present have to be initiated by machine-code Pokes, are both covered by Simons' Basic.

The package also sets up structured programming commands such as *Procedures*, *If-Then-Else* and toolkit type commands. In all, Simons' Basic adds 110 new commands to the Basic on the 64 machine.

An advantage of David's package is that, even when the system is in use, 30K of programming space always remains

David Simons with his Commodore 64 machine on which he developed Simons' BASIC. During his three months' work the machine received a tremendous battering at his hands. The package is now complete, but work does not stop here. David is shortly to start work on a multi-tasking program.



available to the user. This is because of the way it is banked in the memory over the Basic already there. The standard Basic is banked in and out when an enhanced command is called and used. The 8K of high-resolution screen is dumped in the 8K of memory held behind the kernal.

Among the sophisticated graphics commands is one to let you design your own 24 x 21 pixel characters (called a Mob). The *Mob Set* command gives you a 24 x 21 character array in which to build the design.

Each pixel is set by a character in the array between A and D. A defines the background colour and B, C and D define the Mob colour — any one Mob can only display three colours. Up to 256 Mobs can be defined at any time, but only eight can be shown together on any one screen pixel line (switching will get around this).

Other graphics commands include *Circle*, *Paint*, *Draw*, *Trace*, and *Arc*. *Angl* produces sectors of a circle for pie-chart applications and *Shade* colours them in.

Shape allows you to define a lineshape. The instruction is held as a string and different numbers plot left, right, up and down (eg "88887777" plots an 'L'-shape). The *Rot* command can then be used to rotate the defined shape around any given point.

Simons' Basic simplifies the music commands on the Commodore 64. All the *Poke* statements in the 64 Basic are replaced by the *Music* command which sets the notes as A to G with shift for sharps, octave number and duration. The

Envelope command chooses the type of sound.

The completed expansion package was handed over to Commodore on September 2. They are now checking it through before they commit it to Rom, but the cartridge could possibly become available before Christmas. For each of the £50 packs sold, David will get a five percent royalty, so he stands to become quite wealthy. David is already starting work on a Commodore 64 multi-tasking program for iCl and, if Simons' Basic goes well, he may well end up expanding it once again for use on the Commodore 510.

Of the 64 machine he says "At times it is complex to use. What my package does is to make some of its sophisticated capabilities easier to work with."

The nine weeks it took him to write the package were quite busy. "I'd do some work on it most nights" he said "but if I had a lot of homework then I wouldn't make much progress. Most of my weekends though, were spent developing it. The main problem was the difficulty, with a program of this size, in seeing what I was creating. Listing the code out on the printer takes more than seven hours."

Croydon Computer Fair

Croydon Home Computer Fair was held at the Greyhound Halls, Croydon on Saturday, September 25.

Only about 2,000 people attended the show, put on in this ample post-war dance hall. Forty-two companies exhibited.

Ron Vogt, the show's organiser, admitted that the gate was less than he had hoped for: "We will be holding the event every year, but it takes time to become established — I just wish it didn't."

John Scriven takes a look at the latest Spectrum software.

Although the Spectrum has only been available since July, and many people are still waiting for their box of goodies from Cambridge, it is clear that the software writers have been busy with their new machines. At the last London Micro-fair, there were over 50 different programs available for Sinclair's latest offering.

The programs in this review can be divided into adventure games, mazes, arcade simulations, gambling games and utility programs. Reviewing games software is never easy — what appeals to one person does not necessarily appeal to someone else. The criteria employed here, are ease of loading, clear explanation, mug-trapping, value for money and that rather subjective area, entertainment value.

There was only one adventure program, *Elephants' Graveyard* (Silicon Software). You have to buy equipment for a trip into the jungle, set off with your recently-hired bearers and negotiate various problems until you eventually reach the fabled pile of ivory.

Technically, this is based on Kingdom rather than Adventure, in that there is a formula that determines the outcome. Once you have found an ideal number of bearers, food packs, guns, etc, you stand a greater chance of success. The random element is supplied by the number of misfortunes that occur en route.

This appears to be a direct copy of an earlier ZX81 program and does not use the sound and graphics to any high degree, although the game itself is fairly entertaining. On the reverse of the tape is a rather weak stocking-filler, *Sales*, which has the original but rather boring theme of selling ice-creams during changeable weather.

Next, the maze programs. *Green Warrior* (JWV Software) produces random mazes from 32×8 up to an enormous size in excess of 32×100 . The print-out option is useful to cope with this rather difficult task.

You are limited to the number of moves your little green warrior can take and this is where a small bug lies. If you fail to get round in the available moves, the same maze is redrawn. If it's particularly convoluted, it may be impossible to succeed in the permitted number of moves. You may have to break out of the program to restart the game. The maze-drawing algorithm itself, though slow, is good and will not leave you totally surrounded by hedge.

Macronics supplies *Dragon Maze*, an ingenious program that shows the whole maze only at the beginning. As you start to move, the route disappears and is revealed as you explore. Instead of a Minotaur, there is a Dragon who pursues you if you approach his corner. This is an entertaining game and uses sound and graphics well.

One of the best arcade simulations on offer is *Meteor Storm* from Quicksilver. It is written totally in machine code and is practically identical to the arcade game, *Asteroids*. It even has what is described on



From the elephants' graveyard

the insert as 'speech' and certainly the loudspeaker gives a grating rasp that might be interpreted as 'Meteor Storm'. On the first occasion I played this game I thought it said 'Peaches and Cream' — you may decode it differently.

If you like high speed action games then you will be delighted with this opportunity to smash meteors, avoid flying saucers and hyperspace yourself over half the known universe. In some areas it surpasses the arcade original — you can 'hold' the game temporarily while you put the cat out or cook the dinner.

Several firms sell versions of *Startrek*. It is surprising that a game as long in the tooth as this one is still worth marketing. I can remember playing it in the mid-seventies at an IBM open day and the features haven't changed much. There are still the short and long range scans, energy shields, phasers and the dreaded Klingons to be zapped.

JWV Software has extended its version to cover a larger slice of the universe, different levels of play and something mysteriously called in the manual 'Romulon sabatures'. Mr Spock never was too hot on spelling.

The manual is a useful accessory, and the game entertaining if you haven't played it too much before. It doesn't involve high-speed finger-jabbing nor even painful mental exercise — perhaps it's the ideal game when you come home from the second *Startrek* movie.

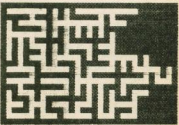
Star Dreams also provides a version that is not as involved as JWV's game but is still enjoyable to play. The advantage here is that you get another game on the reverse of the tape — *Towers of Brahma*. This is a mental problem rather than a game and consists of three posts, each one capable of supporting different sized rings. The rings are on post 1 and have to be transferred to post 3. Only one ring may be moved at a time and no ring may cover one of a smaller size.

The instructions are clear and the

graphics reasonable, if not amazing. You can attempt to achieve success in the minimum number of moves or to better your time. These two games make this cassette good value.

Torpedo Shoot (JWV Software) is similar to an early arcade game that relies on judgement rather than speed. There is a star-filled sky and a view of a stormy sea, traversed by various vessels. The object is to fire 20 torpedoes at the ships. Your base is fixed and cannot be aimed, which soon results in frustration and boredom.

The graphics are good until a ship is hit, when they become rather strange, with large coloured blocks rising from the ship. If this feature were improved, it would be an average, if weak game.



STUDY THE MAZE

Star Quest (Macronics) is three mini-games in one. It involves avoiding meteors, docking a capsule and shooting retreating aliens. There is no variation in skill level and it seemed rather easy. A hardened 'Defender' addict would not be impressed with this. If there were more mini-games and possibly a points system, then the game would be improved greatly.

Macronics also produces a game called *Space Rescue* that proved extremely difficult to load. I was surprised at this as it was the first Spectrum cassette I have encountered that refused to load on my usual two machines. The levels seemed satisfactory, but possibly the speed of recording was



to the Towers of Brahma

not standard, as the only successful load was from a vari-speed deck. This seems to be one of the few ways to fool the improved loading system on the Spectrum.

Space Rescue itself is an arcade-type game that involves rescuing people from the surface of a planet and transferring them to a mother ship. There is a sideways-scrolling asteroid belt that has to be negotiated between the two. This is a much more professional game than *Star Quest* and would be good value if the loading were improved.

Four-in-a-row from J.W.V. Software is like *Connect-4* and can be played against a partner or against the computer. You drop coloured discs into an 8 x 8 frame in turns and attempt to be the first to get four of your discs in a row, horizontally, vertically or diagonally. A younger player complained that it took too long to drop the discs, but in other respects it is well-written and makes a quiet change from *Alien-stomping*.

The final action game is *Bomber* from Control Technology. This is a Spectrum version of the old favourite *Blitz*, which necessitates flattening a city of skyscrapers by bombing them from your aircraft which is losing height. Should you succeed before crashing into a building, another city rises from the ashes somewhat higher than before.



Video Software's SUPERDRAW

Personally, I do not enjoy games where the sole object is to zap innocent civilians, although I may be oversensitive. At least Control Technology has not cashed in on

recent events like some firms and given the city a Latin American name.

I am surprised after seeing so many published listings that this game is still a marketable product. It is not a particularly long program, though this is a competent enough version and does have the advantage of on-screen scoring. The main fault is that the first city is often too high to destroy and even seasoned arcade players need to get warmed up.

Bomber is another cassette that is better value as it contains another game on the reverse side. Since it is a gambling game, it serves to introduce the next group of programs.

Fruit Machine (Control Technology) is well-written and introduced and does all you would expect, except pay out real money. You have £5 to start, each spin costs 10p, and there are many combinations to win. There is a 'hold' facility and occasionally you can even 'nudge' the reels. The only lack of realism was its allowing me to walk away with £12 profit, a most unlikely result in real life.

Jack Gibbons produces a cassette called *Casino 1*, that contains three different games for hardened gamblers: *Blackjack*, *Craps* and *Roulette*. *Blackjack* is the totally

continued on page 22

| Firm | Program | Cost | Value (1-10) |
|--|---|---|--|
| J.W.V. Software 139 Ailington Drive Strood Kent | <i>Green Warrior</i> <i>Picture Maker</i> <i>Star Trek</i> <i>Torpedo Shoot</i> <i>4-in-a-row</i> | (48K) (48K) (48K) (16K) (16K) | £5.00 7 £4.00 2 £7.00 8 £4.00 4 £4.00 7 |
| Macronics 26 Spiers Close Knowle Solihull West Midlands | <i>Dragon Maze</i> <i>Star Quest</i> <i>Space Rescue</i> | (16K) (16K) (48K) | £4.95 7 £3.95 4 £4.95 6 or £12.00 for the three |
| Jack Gibbons 14 Avalon Road Orpington Kent | <i>Blackjack</i> <i>Craps</i> <i>Roulette</i> | (16K) (16K) (16K) | £4.00 9 |
| Star Dreams 9 Bainbridge Close Seaford Sussex | <i>Star Trek</i> <i>Towers of Brahma</i> | (48K) (16K) | — 8 |
| Quicksilver 92 Northam Road Southampton | <i>Meteor Storm</i> | (16K) | £5.95 9 |
| Control Technology 39 Gloucester Road Gee Cross Hyde Cheshire | <i>Bomber</i> <i>Fruit Machine</i> | (16K) (16K) | £5.00 8 |
| ZedXtra Software 5 School Lane Kinson Bournemouth | <i>Character Programmer</i> | (16K) | £4.95 5 |
| Silicon Software Ltd 24 Short Lane Stanwell Middlesex | <i>Elephants Graveyard</i> <i>Sales</i> | (16K) (16K) | £2.95 6 |
| Video Software Ltd Stone Lane Kinver Stourbridge West Midlands | <i>Superdraw</i> | (16K) | £5.00 10 |

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Presentation hints

Programs which are most likely to be considered for the Program of the Week will be computer printed and accompanied by a cassette.

The program will be well documented, the documentation being typed with a double spacing between each line. The documentation should start with a general description of the program and then give some detail of how the program has been constructed and of its special features.

Listings taken from a ZX Printer should be cut into convenient lengths and carefully stuck down on to white paper, avoiding any creasing.

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Code Loader

on ZX81

Before you groan inwardly and turn rapidly to the next page with a mumbled "Oh no, not another one!" let me assure you that this one really is a big improvement on the ones you may have seen before.

Nearly all the loaders I have come across that store the data in the first line in a Ram statement require you to previously type in as many characters of rubbish as there are bytes of machine code. The loader then pokes the code you type in into this statement. This makes it very difficult to check and correct the program.

This program gets around this problem by 'reading' the machine code instructions in the first Ram statement, converting these into character codes and poking the converted codes back into the same statement.

To use the program, type all the lines

except 10 and 20. Into line 10 type your machine code separated by commas or spaces in decimal. If you prefer to type in Hex, change the ' * 10' in line 90 to ' * 16'. Check and edit the code as required.

When you are satisfied it is correct use Edit to copy it into line 20. Then run the program. If required, save the program at this point. To run the machine code program use the instruction *Rand Usr* (16514). If the program is incorrect just copy line 20 into Line 10 and correct it.

The program uses the fact that the character code for numbers 0 to 9 and characters A to F are in sequence and lie between 28 and 43 (lines 80 & 90). Line 150 checks for an 'end of line' character.

BEFORE RUNNING THE PROGRAM...

```
10 REM 33 130 64 17 0 32 1 0 1
201
30 REM 33 130 64 17 0 32 1 0 1
40 LET C=0
50 LET L=10514
60 LET R=PEEK L
70 LET L=L+1
80 IF B:80 OR B:43 THEN GOTO 1
20
30 LET C=C+10+B-28
100 GOTO 60
130 LET P=P+1
140 LET C=0
150 IF B:110 THEN GOTO 60
160 LIST
```

...AFTER RUNNING THE PROGRAM WE GET

```
10 REM 33 130 64 17 0 32 1 0 1
201
30 LET C=0
40 LET L=10514
50 LET R=PEEK L
60 LET L=L+1
70 IF B:80 OR B:43 THEN GOTO 1
20
30 LET C=C+10+B-28
100 GOTO 60
130 LET P=P+1
140 LET C=0
150 IF B:110 THEN GOTO 60
160 LIST
```

Code Loader
by Nigel Vandyk

Spelling

on ZX81

This program runs on a 16K ZX81 and could easily run on a Spectrum with the minimum of changes. It was written for a remedial group at a primary school and has proved quite successful.

The user is asked to input ten words, up to fifteen letters long and then find somebody to try them out on. The child has two goes to get the word right then the incorrect word is placed next to the right word at

the end of the test. You also can choose a speed in which the child has to pit its wits against.

The word is flashed on the screen for the defined amount of time. The program then starts again at line 60.

Program notes

- 18=variable
- 60 to 68=inputs name and speed
- 69 to 89=sets up screen
- 92 to 180=tests child and checks for correct answer.
- 181 to 185=gives child another go if necessary.
- 220 to 247=prints score and copies it on to printer.
- 300 to 317=inputs words for testing.

```
1 REM *COPYWRITE BRUCE POPE:
2 REM #SPELLING TEST 10-9-88:
3 LET A=0
40 GOSUB 200
50 PRINT "WHAT IS YOUR NAME?"
60 REM *GO AND GET A TEACHER*
70 NEXT N
80 PRINT AT 0,11,"TYPE IN SPEED
90 PAUSE 10
100 IF B:10 IS SLOW" 5 IS QUITE
110 PRINT AT 0,0
120 INPUT I
130 LET A=I
140
150 PRINT "HELLO *N*, *LOOK
160 AT THIS WORD, THEN SPELL IT YOURS
170 CLP
180 PAUSE 300
190 FOR N=1 TO 3
200 SCROLL
210 NEXT N
220 CLS
230 CLS
240 LET I=I+15
250 REM *GO AND GET A TEACHER*
260 DIM B$(150,1)
270 FOR N=1 TO 10
280 LET U=0
290 IF B$(N)=A$(N) THEN GOTO 20
300
310 LET U=U+1
320 PRINT "BAD LUCK
330 *TRY AGAIN"
340 IF U=1 THEN PAUSE 200
350 IF U=1 THEN GOTO 130
360 NEXT N
370 REM *GO AND GET A TEACHER*
380 GOTO 220
390 LET B$(N)="CORRECT"
400 CLS
410 CLS
420 PRINT "THIS WAS YOUR SCORE
430 N$
440 PRINT
450 FOR N=1 TO 10
460 PRINT A$(N), ":", B$(N)
470 NEXT N
480 INPUT U$
490 GOTO 60
500 PRINT "INPUT 10 WORDS WITH
510 THE MAXIMUM OF 14 LETTERS FOR T
520 HE PUPILS:
530 FOR N=10 TO 141
540 FOR H=1 TO 10
550 REM *GO AND GET A TEACHER*
560 NEXT N
570 CLS
580 FOR N=1 TO 10
590 PRINT A$(N)
600 NEXT N
610 PAUSE 300
620 GOTO 60
```

Spelling
by Bruce Pope

Open Forum

Vanishing Code

on ZX81

This describes a programming hint for the deletion of large quantities of Basic code on the ZX81.

I was faced with the task of either entering a very large machine code storage *Rem* or loading a very big program that contained the *Rem* and deleting all the Basic. I decided on the latter, and set out to find a way of deleting all the Basic at a single stroke. It proved extremely simple.

I found that all Basic lines end in a byte 118 followed by a zero byte and that the program ends with two 118 bytes. If one develops a method of determining which byte to poke with 118 following a previous 118, the effect is to delete all the code that followed. The two lines of Basic below will allow one to do this.

Line 100 is an all-purpose line that may be placed anywhere in the program. When this is RUN, the code immediately following the line is deleted TO THE END OF THE CODE.

Line 100 computes the NEXTLIN address & pokes 118 into it, which is adjacent to the byte 118 at the end of the previous line of code.

Line 200 may be entered as a direct command to delete ALL code except the first line. This is the line I used to delete my huge Basic program, leaving me with the machine code I wanted to 'borrow' and no aching fingers or boggle eyes.

```

100 POKE (PEEK 16425+256:PEEK 1
6426),118
200 POKE (16509+(PEEK 16511+256
+PEEK 16512)+4),118

```

Vanishing Code

by Paul Newman

[illegible]

Martians

on Vic-20

This is an arcade game with a difference. You, a Martian, are seeking revenge on those nasty humanoids who used to shoot you down in pubs and clubs. You have four lives, and if you shoot down all the men, the game starts again, but you have less chance of survival. Be careful not to shoot an arm, or you lose points!

The game fits in 3.5K, with room for small adjustments if you wish. Full instructions are included in the program.

The main program variables are:

- RN define how often the men fire at you.
- SC your score (10 points per man).
- KY the keyboard buffer peek (197).
- SP your base position (starts at zero).
- GF equals one, when you are firing.
- GF equals one, when the men are firing.
- LL lives left (you have four per game).
- PE men left to shoot.

The program uses a keyboard *Peek* rather than a *Get* statement as it is faster and allows for repeats.

Program notes:

1: Goto subroutine to print instructions.
10: Set screen colour, volume, and clear keyboard buffer.

29: Define variables.
30-100: Set up screen, shields, men and your base.
105-109: Test to see if you are firing, or the men are,
and adjust screen accordingly.

110-130: Check for keys.
140: Goto line 160 to let men shoot.
160-180: Define bullet starting position from men.
1900-1060: Clear base of screen, and minus one life.
If all lives gone, then print 'game over' and restart.
2000-2010: Define bullet starting position from your base.

3000-3030: Wipe man off screen, after moving his arms, and adjust score. If no men left, then start again, with increased difficulty.
4000-4040: Print 'game over' routine and restart.
6000: Adjust difficulty of game and restart.
10000-11400: Instructions etc.

Peculiar Program

on Spectrum

This program demonstrates a very odd feature of the Spectrum. It produces a very unusual screen effect, but I am not sure exactly how! Using a small machine-code routine stored in the user-definable graphics area, the Interrupt Vector, I, is altered from its usual value of 63 to 64. (In fact, any value from 64 to 127 can be used).

On its own, this produces a slight picture break-up, as the ULA becomes confused. When a *Pause* statement is executed, very strange effects occur — sometimes the display is normal, sometimes each character is repeated, and other times a 'fruit-machine' effect occurs. To restore normality when running the program, press *Break* then *Goto* 100. The only real use of this program I can think of is to produce an impressive explosion effect, if line 60 is altered to *Pause* 0.

```

10 FOR I=USR "A" TO USR "A"+4
20 READ A: POKE I,A
30 NEXT I
40 INK 0: LIST: INK RND*6: LIST
50 RANDOMIZE USR "A"
60 PAUSE 20: GO TO 60
70 DATA 62,64,237,71,201
100 POKE USR "A"+1,63
110 RANDOMIZE USR USR "A"

```

by Andrew Pennell

```

3035 0F=0;POKE190,0;P=PE-1;1FFE=0;THEH6900
3036 FORK=1;T080=HEXTE
3037 POKE1,32;POKE17-22,32;POKE14-44,32;POKE1-23,32;POKE1-1,21,32

3040 RETURN

4000 POKE190,0;P=POKE1305
4001 POKE190,17,170
4002 PRINT"#####1FFFE OVER#"
4005 FORH=1;T020=HEXTH
4006 POKE190,200
4010 PRINT"#####P=PE OVER#"
4020 FORH=1;T020=HEXTH
4030 NEXTV
4032 POKE36879,0
4035 PRINT"#####PLAY AGAIN?"
4036 GETA:IF A="" THENA=036
4037 IF A="1" THEN2
4038 IF A="2" THEN2
4039 IF A="3" THENPRINT"VE BEV!";POKE36879,27;END
4040 TO036
4044 OT010
6000 CLR:PRINT1;GOTO10
6002 POKE36879,25
10010 PRINT"#####THE HAVY HAWKHOOD#"
10020 PRINT"IN THIS GAME,UNLIVE"
10030 PRINT"WINN-DIVKERS TYPES,"
10040 PRINT"YOU,THE PRINTING,MUST"
10050 PRINT"ELIMINATE THE HAWKS"
10060 PRINT"YOU SEE REVEGE,"
10070 PRINT"YOU MUST SHOOT DOWN"
10080 PRINT"THE HAWY HAWKHOOD"
10090 PRINT"BEFORE THEY EVENTUALLY";
10100 PRINT"KILL YOU,BEND A"
10200 PRINT"PARTIAL,HOWEVER,YOU"
10200 PRINT"HAVE 25 LIVES"
10400 PRINT"(NOT TO BE LUNTED)"
10500 PRINT"#####IT A KEV"
10600 GETA:IF A="" THEN10600
10700 PRINT"POKE190,0;P=V"
10900 PRINT"#####LEFT"
10900 PRINT"#####RIGHT"
11000 PRINT"#####TO FIRE,"
11100 PRINT"#####RET REVD,WD"
11200 PRINT"MIT INV KEV"
11300 GETA:IF A="" THEN11300
11400 POKE190,0;RETURN

```

Martians
by John Coun

Open Forum

Night Bomber

on Vic20

This program runs on an unexpanded Vic20 in a meagre 1.6K. To play the game you first select your difficulty level and air speed (ie: the heights of the buildings and length of delay loop). The computer then designs a cityscape which your jet must demolish.

You do this by using bombs (to drop press "F7") and missiles ("F5"). There is an unlimited supply of bombs but only three air-to-air missiles. Each section of building destroyed scores one point: mis-

siles however, are an emergency measure and score no points.

The program is easily adapted to become easier or harder. For instance, by changing lines:

505: Range of missile (here = 10).
240: The odds of destroying the "next section" of building (here 1 in 6).
80: The heights of the buildings (here the minimum is 1 to a maximum of 17).

Program notes:

Lines
55-120 — design the cityscape.
160-200 — move the plane.
145 + 215 — move the bomb.
140, 170 and 510 colour the plane, bomb and missiles.

500-560 — is the missile subroutine.

The main variables used are:

X — Main loop variable.
N — Main delay variable.
B — Position of bomb.
S + T — Control the shape of the bomb and the noise it makes while dropping.
V — Controls the amount of damage each bomb does.
D + E — Are the difficulty level and airspeed level.

The basic program is very simple and easily expanded and modified. You are advised to start on level one first and then progress, or else you'll be in for a shock.

```

10 POKE36879,110:POKE36876,15:HS=0
20 PRINT"  NIGHT BOMBER"
25 PRINT"  PETER M BARTLEY"
30 PRINT"  PLEASE TYPE LEVEL OF"
35 INPUT"DIFFICULTY (1-9):"D:IF INT(D)<1:PRINT(D):GOTO 35
40 INPUT"MAIRSPD (5-17):"E:IF INT(E)<5:PRINT(E):GOTO 40
45 M=3:T=1:S=39:SC=0
50 REM#BUILD CITYSCAPE
55 POKE36879,8:PRINT"J"
60 FORZ=8TO21
65 HS=" "
70 PRINTID$(HS:INT(RND(1)*8)+1,1)
80 FORV=1TOINT(RND(1)*8+D)
90 PRINTTAB(Z)$(M)
95 POKE36876,212+2*V
100 NEXTV
105 PRINT" "
110 NEXTZ
120 POKE36876,8:FORN=1TO500:NEXTN
125 REM#MAIN LOOP
130 FORX=1TO472
140 IFB=0THENPOKE(38422+X+B),4
145 IFB=0THENPOKE(7782+X+B),8
150 IFB=0 AND T=0 THEN POKE36876,250-T
155 FORN=1TO(E-1)*10:NEXTN
160 POKE7781+X,32
170 POKE38424+X,1
180 POKE7782+X,252
190 POKE7783+X,121
200 POKE7784+X,82
205 IFB=0 THEN POKE36876,8
210 POKE36877,8
215 IFB=0THENPOKE(7782+X+B),32
220 IF7724+X+B<16163THENB=0:S=39:T=1
230 IFPEEK(7785+X)<32THENH=1
235 REM#STRENGTH OF BUILDING
240 IFB=0ANDPEEK(7724+X+B)=196THENV=INT(RND(1)*6)+1:S=86:
60:SC=1:T=1:POKE36877,190+V*10
250 IFV=2THENB=0:V=8:S=39:T=1
260 GETB$
270 IFB$=" "ANDB=0THENB=1
280 IFB$=" "ANDD=0THENH=1:M=1:GOSUB500
290 IFB=0THENB=B+21:T=T+1
300 PRINT"SCORE:"$SC"MISSILES:"$M
305 NEXTX
310 REM#SUCCESS
315 FORN=1TO1800:NEXT
320 FORN=1TO50
325 PRINT
330 POKE36877,200+H
335 NEXTN
340 POKE36877,8
345 PRINT"GOOD LANDING—WELL DONE"
350 REM#SCORE
358 PRINT"YOUR SCORE WAS:"$SC
365 IFSC<384ANDHS=0THEN380
370 HS=SC:PRINT"YOU HAVE THE HIGHSCORE"
375 INPUT"TYPE YOUR INITIALS:"$H:LEFT$(H,3)
380 PRINT"$H HAS THE HIGHSCORE WITH"$H
385 PRINT"YOUR LEVEL $S=SAVES"
390 GETV$:IFV$=" "THEN390
395 IFV$="S"THENH=5
400 IFV$="H"ANDD=0THENB=D+1:GOTO45
405 GOTO380
410 REM#FAILED
415 POKE36879,24:F=46:G=0:H=2:I=0
420 FORN=1TO3STEPH
425 POKE36877,200+H:POKE36883,H:FORK=1TO50:NEXT
430 POKE36877,8
435 NEXTN
440 PRINT"YOU CRASHED—TOUGH LUCK"
455 I=1:IF I=1THENF=8:G=46:H=2:GOTO420
460 GOTO380
500 REM#MISSILES
505 FORJ=258TO158STEP-10
510 POKE38424+H+X,2
520 POKE7784+H+X,82
530 POKE36877,J:POKE36876,J
540 POKE7784+H+X,32
550 H=H+1
560 NEXTJ
570 POKE36877,8:POKE36876,8
580 RETURN

```

Night Bomber
by Peter Bartley

Resistor

on Vic

Type in the resistance required, each digit other than zeros being followed by return. Enter zeros together — and return. The program will then show the colour-code for that resistance.

Disassembler

on BBC Micro

I have written an interesting program on my BBC micro to enable users to see what is going on inside the memory of their micro. I have written it on a Model B, but since it is very short and uses Mode 4 it will run on a Model A.

The variables used are:

```

10 DIMC$(10),DA(10),DB(10),DC$(10)
20 C$(0)="BLACK":C$(1)="BROWN":C$(2)="RED":C$(3)="ORANGE":C$(4)="YELLOW"
30 C$(5)="GREEN":C$(6)="BLUE":C$(7)="PURPLE":C$(8)="GREY":C$(9)="WHITE"
42 DC$(0)="":DC$(1)="0":DC$(2)="00":DC$(3)="000":DC$(4)="0000":DC$(5)="00000"
43 DC$(6)="000000":DC$(7)="0000000":DC$(8)="00000000":DC$(9)="000000000"
70 PRINT"ENTER RESISTANCE"
80 INPUTR
90 INPUTDB
100 INPUTDC$
110 PRINT"LIST BAND- "C$(DA)
120 PRINT"END BAND- "C$(DB)
130 PRINT"OTHER BAND- "C$(LEN(DC$))
140 PRINT"OTHER RESISTOR? Y/N"
150 GETA:IFA$=" "THEN150
152 IFA$="Y"THENSTOP
155 CLR
160 GOTO10

```

READY.

Resistor
by Richard Barton

Open Forum

60 I "" STARTADDRESS" Y%

```

70 M0.
80 VD423,256,256,255,255,255,255,255,255,255.
90 @%-<=00203.
100 P0,1.
110 DIM CHAR(8).
120 P0,1~X%~X%~.
130 IF KEY(9)=ASC("A") RUN REM PRESS 'A' TO
  ABORT AT ANY TIME.
140 +FIX15.
150 FOR A%=X% TO X%+7.
160 CHAR(A%-X%)=7A%.
170 IF CHAR(A%-X%) 16 P0,1.
180 P0,1~CHAR(A%-X%)~.
190 NEXT.
200 P0,1~FOR A%=0 TO 7.
210 IF CHAR(A%)>32 THEN P0,1CHAR(CHAR(A%))~.
  ELSE P0,1.
220 NEXT A%.
230 X%~X%-8.
240 GOTO 120.

```

by Tim Zobel

Klingon

Klingon

on Spectrum

The Klingon ship in lines 120, 190, 210 and 1580 is made up of the graphic characters "T", "K".

| Line(s) | Effect |
|--------------|---|
| 10 to 70 | This "pokes" the caps shift off. Introduction and option for instructions. |
| 83 to 89 | Select level of difficulty. |
| 100 to 260 | Main loop: (printing and unprinting of ships, reading the keys). |
| 270 to 850 | Initialisation: (defining the graphic characters, plotting the stars, drawing the planet etc.) Klonsong photon fire. |
| 868 to 870 | Awards a bonus ship if score is a multiple of 250 points. |
| 950 | Checks if your score has reached 2,000 points yet. |
| 980 to 1030 | Increases 1 (energy landed) by one, if this makes 1 = 7 control passes to 1120, otherwise sounds alarm and resets Starship. |
| 1120 to 1230 | The plant is destroyed (quite spectacularly). |
| 1240 to 1310 | Play again option. |
| 1320 to 1500 | Instructions. |
| 1510 to 1560 | Play Beethoven's 5th symphony, (well, sort of). |
| 1590 to 1590 | Bonus ship subroutine. |
| 1610 to 1710 | Hey! you won. |

to next page

Lines 60 to 100 calculate the successive terms in the series, each new term being

Open Forum

PROGRAM OF THE WEEK

you have any left) will fly in from the fleet shown in the top left of the screen.

When either all your ships are destroyed or seven enemy craft have penetrated your defences, the plant on the planet's surface will explode and the game will be over. If you can make it to two thousand points then you have won, and will be treated with all the respect due to a true war hero.

You are entrusted with the defence of the nuclear plant on the planet Grool.

The Federation is determined to destroy this plant at any cost, especially that of Isabell Kirk.

Your ships controls are:-

- 7 To go up
- 6 To go down
- 8 To blow seven buccs... (sorry)
- 0 To fire photon beam

You have 7 defence craft, and our ground forces can withstand up to 7 landings. (Press any key)



Mannanuvvergot

(y or n)

KLINGON DEFENCE
(clinging defence)

```

THEN GO TO 63
80 GET R/R CODE $s=48
81 GO TO 67
100 IF INKEY$="7" AND X<1 THEN
LET X=X+1
110 IF INKEY$="6" AND X<2 THEN
LET X=X+1
120 IF C<0 THEN PRINT AT X,2;
"/AT X+1,25; "/AT X+1,25;
130 IF INKEY$="8" THEN GO TO 85
140 PRINT AT S,H; INK 7; OVER 1
150 PRINT AT S,H+1; OVER 1; INK
7; OVER 1
160 PRINT AT S,H; INK 8; OVER 1
170 IF X<0 OR AND(C=1/3 THEN
GO TO 240
170 DEEP .3; DEEP .1;20; PR
INT AT S,5; INK 7; OVER 1; INK 7;
OVER 1
180 OVER 8; IF X<3 THEN LET C=C
-1
190 IF X<5 THEN FOR Z=6 TO 8; ST
EP .1; PRINT AT S,20; INK 2; OVE
R 1
200 IF X<5 AND C<0 THEN FOR C=0
TO C-1; PRINT AT 0,C+2+4; OVER
0; C=NEXT
210 OVER 0; IF X<5 AND C<1 THE
N FOR X=C+2 TO 35; PRINT AT 0,
X; "/; DEEP .05;80; PRINT AT 0,
X; "/; DEEP .05;80; PRINT AT 0,
X; "/; DEEP .05;80;
220 IF C<0 THEN GO TO 1120
230 OVER 8; LET S=0; GO TO 900
240 GO TO 100
250 POKER USA "=-+0.0
260 POKER USA "=-+1.0
270 POKER USA "=-+2.0 00001111
280 POKER USA "=-+3.0 00001010
290 POKER USA "=-+4.0 00001111
300 POKER USA "=-+5.0 00001111
310 POKER USA "=-+6.0 00001111
320 POKER USA "=-+7.0 00001111
330 POKER USA "=-+8.0
340 POKER USA "=-+9.0
350 POKER USA "=-+10.0 11110000
360 POKER USA "=-+11.0 11110000
370 POKER USA "=-+12.0 11110000
380 POKER USA "=-+13.0 11110000
390 POKER USA "=-+14.0 11110000
400 POKER USA "=-+15.0 11110000
410 POKER USA "=-+16.0 11110000
420 POKER USA "=-+17.0 11110000
430 POKER USA "=-+18.0 11111111
440 POKER USA "=-+19.0 11111111
450 POKER USA "=-+20.0 00000000
460 POKER USA "=-+21.0 00000000
470 POKER USA "=-+22.0 00000000
480 POKER USA "=-+23.0 00000000
490 POKER USA "=-+24.0 00000000
500 POKER USA "=-+25.0 00000000
510 POKER USA "=-+26.0 00000000
520 POKER USA "=-+27.0 00000000
530 POKER USA "=-+28.0 00000000
540 POKER USA "=-+29.0 11110000
550 POKER USA "=-+30.0 11110000
560 POKER USA "=-+31.0 11110000
570 POKER USA "=-+32.0 11110000
580 POKER USA "=-+33.0 11110000
590 POKER USA "=-+34.0 11110000
600 POKER USA "=-+35.0 11110000
610 POKER USA "=-+36.0 11110000
620 POKER USA "=-+37.0 11110000
630 CLS
640 FOR Q=0 TO 100 STEP 2
650 PLOT INK 7;AND$10,Q,3;7
660 DEEP .05;4AND-30
670 NEXT Q
680 PLOT 255,0
690 ORAU INK 7,0,175; -PI/2
700 LET C=7
710 LET SC=0
720 LET H=0
730 IF C=0 THEN LET S=INT (RND*20)+1
740 INK 2
750 LET O=0
760 LET I=1
770 PRINT AT 10,30; INK 6; "m";
AT 13,20;
780 GO TO 900
790 IF C=0 THEN FOR D=2 TO 3;
DEEP .1;H=10; PRINT AT X,5; OU
T "n"; NEXT D; PRINT AT X,5; INK 7;
OVER 1
800 IF H=24 THEN FOR D=2 TO 3;
DEEP .1;H=10; PRINT AT X,5; O
UT "n"; NEXT D; PRINT AT X,5;
OVER 1
810 IF X<5 THEN LET SC=SC+10
820 IF X<5 THEN FOR V=7 TO 8; ST
EP .1; PRINT AT S,H; INK V; NEXT
V; DEEP .05;80; PRINT AT S,H; INK
V; OVER 1
830 IF X<5 THEN LET S=INT (RND*
20)+1; LET H=0
840 PRINT AT 21,0; INK 7; "SCORE
";SC; "ENEMY LANDED:";I;
850 IF SC=500 OR SC=500 OR SC=7
50 OR SC=1000 OR SC=1500 OR SC=3
000 THEN GO SUB 1500
860 GO TO 100
870 LET I=1
880 PRINT AT S,H; INK 7; OVER 1
890 PRINT AT 21,0; INK 7; "SCORE
";SC; "ENEMY LANDED:";I;
900 IF L<7 THEN GO TO 1120
910 LET H=0
920 IF L=7 THEN GO TO 1120
930 FOR W=0 TO 4; DEEP .3; -10;
DEEP .1; -20; DEEP .07; -30; NEXT
W
940 PRINT AT 10,30; INK 8; "
950 PRINT AT 11,30; INK 8; "
960 GO TO 100
970 GO TO 100
980 GO TO 100
990 GO TO 100
1000 GO TO 100
1010 GO TO 100
1020 GO TO 100
1030 GO TO 100
1040 GO TO 100
1050 GO TO 100
1060 GO TO 100
1070 GO TO 100
1080 GO TO 100
1090 GO TO 100
1100 GO TO 100
1110 GO TO 100
1120 GO TO 100
1130 GO TO 100
1140 GO TO 100
1150 GO TO 100
1160 GO TO 100
1170 GO TO 100
1180 GO TO 100
1190 GO TO 100
1200 GO TO 100
1210 GO TO 100
1220 GO TO 100
1230 GO TO 100
1240 GO TO 100
1250 GO TO 100
1260 GO TO 100
1270 GO TO 100
1280 GO TO 100
1290 GO TO 100
1300 GO TO 100
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1380 GO TO 100
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1480 GO TO 100
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1500 GO TO 100
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2090 GO TO 100
2100 GO TO 100
2110 GO TO 100
2120 GO TO 100
2130 GO TO 100
2140 GO TO 100
2150 GO TO 100
2160 GO TO 100
2170 GO TO 100
2180 GO TO 100
2190 GO TO 100
2200 GO TO 100
2210 GO TO 100
2220 GO TO 100
2230 GO TO 100
2240 GO TO 100
2250 GO TO 100
2260 GO TO 100
2270 GO TO 100
2280 GO TO 100
2290 GO TO 100
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2770 GO TO 100
2780 GO TO 100
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2800 GO TO 100
2810 GO TO 100
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2880 GO TO 100
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2960 GO TO 100
2970 GO TO 100
2980 GO TO 100
2990 GO TO 100
3000 GO TO 100
3010 GO TO 100
3020 GO TO 100
3030 GO TO 100
3040 GO TO 100
3050 GO TO 100
3060 GO TO 100
3070 GO TO 100
3080 GO TO 100
3090 GO TO 100
3100 GO TO 100
3110 GO TO 100
3120 GO TO 100
3130 GO TO 100
3140 GO TO 100
3150 GO TO 100
3160 GO TO 100
3170 GO TO 100
3180 GO TO 100
3190 GO TO 100
3200 GO TO 100
3210 GO TO 100
3220 GO TO 100
3230 GO TO 100
3240 GO TO 100
3250 GO TO 100
3260 GO TO 100
3270 GO TO 100
3280 GO TO 100
3290 GO TO 100
3300 GO TO 100
3310 GO TO 100
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3360 GO TO 100
3370 GO TO 100
3380 GO TO 100
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Open Forum

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1  RPH
2  RPH
3  LDI R0,0
4  DDI R1,#0
5  DDI R2,#0
6  DDI R3,#0
7  DDI R4,#0
8  DDI R5,#0
9  DDI R6,#0
10 DDI R7,#0
11 DDI R8,#0
12 DDI R9,#0
13 DDI R10,#0
14 DDI R11,#0
15 DDI R12,#0
16 DDI R13,#0
17 IF R0<#0 THEN GO TO 30
18 IF R1<#0 THEN GO TO 40
19 LET R0:=0+R0*#0+R1*1
20 LET R1:=0+R1*#0+R2*1
21 LET R2:=0+R2*#0+R3*1
22 LET R3:=0+R3*#0+R4*1
23 LET R4:=0+R4*#0+R5*1
24 LET R5:=0+R5*#0+R6*1
25 LET R6:=0+R6*#0+R7*1
26 LET R7:=0+R7*#0+R8*1
27 LET R8:=0+R8*#0+R9*1
28 LET R9:=0+R9*#0+R10*1
29 LET R10:=0+R10*#0+R11*1
30 FOR I=1 TO 4
31 IF I=1 THEN LET R5:=R5*#0+R6
32 RETURN
33
34 IF I>#0 THEN GO SUB 100
35 RETURN
36
37 LET R5:=R5+R6*(I) TO 100
38 RETURN
39
40 LET R5:=R5 TO DECIMAL
41 LET R6:=R6
42 LET R7:=R7
43 LET R8:=R8
44 LET R9:=R9
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47 LET R12:=R12
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316 LET R281:=R281

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3025 RETURN
3035 LET ADDRESS=0
3040 PRINT "PLAYING"
3045 IF NOT ADDRESS: GO SUB 5: LET B=1
4025 CLS PRINT AT 0,0:INCR=INCR+1
4030 IF INCR=2 THEN PRINT "CHANGE ADDRESS"
4035 GOTO 2010
4040 PRINT AT 13,0,"AT 13,0,"
4045 PRINT AT 13,0,"AT 13,0,"
4050 PRINT AT 13,3:"ADDRESS"AT 13,2,"Data"AT 15,0,"Hex"AT 17,2
4055 DATA: GO SUB 5: LET B=INCR+1
4060 GOTO 4
4065 PRINT AT 15,5,B$,"AT 15,5,"
4070 DATA
4075 IF B=1 THEN GOTO 4065
4080 IF B=2 THEN GOTO 4065
4085 IF B=3 THEN GOTO 4065
4090 IF B=4 THEN GOTO 4065
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4665 IF B=119 THEN GOTO 4065
4670 IF B=120 THEN GOTO 4065
4675 IF B=121 THEN GOTO 4065
4680 IF B=122 THEN GOTO 4065
4685 IF B=123 THEN GOTO 4065
4690 IF B=124 THEN GOTO 4065
4695 IF B=125 THEN GOTO 4065
4700 IF B=126 THEN GOTO 4065
4705 IF B=127 THEN GOTO 4065
4710 IF B=128 THEN GOTO 4065
4715 IF B=129 THEN GOTO 4065
4720 IF B=130 THEN GOTO 4065
4725 IF B=131 THEN GOTO 4065
4730 IF B=132 THEN GOTO 4065
4735 IF B=133 THEN GOTO 4065
4740 IF B=134 THEN GOTO 4065
4745 IF B=135 THEN GOTO 4065
4750 IF B=136 THEN GOTO 4065
4755 IF B=137 THEN GOTO 4065
4760 IF B=138 THEN GOTO 4065
4765 IF B=139 THEN GOTO 4065
4770 IF B=140 THEN GOTO 4065
4775 IF B=141 THEN GOTO 4065
4780 IF B=142 THEN GOTO 4065
4785 IF B=143 THEN GOTO 4065
4790 IF B=144 THEN GOTO 4065
4795 IF B=145 THEN GOTO 4065
4800 IF B=146 THEN GOTO 4065
4805 IF B=147 THEN GOTO 4065
4810 IF B=148 THEN GOTO 4065
4815 IF B=149 THEN GOTO 4065
4820 IF B=150 THEN GOTO 4065
4825 IF B=151 THEN GOTO 4065
4830 IF B=152 THEN GOTO 4065
4835 IF B=153 THEN GOTO 4065
4840 IF B=154 THEN GOTO 4065
4845 IF B=155 THEN GOTO 4065
4850 IF B=156 THEN GOTO 4065
4855 IF B=157 THEN GOTO 4065
4860 IF B=158 THEN GOTO 4065
4865 IF B=159 THEN GOTO 4065
4870 IF B=160 THEN GOTO 4065
4875 IF B=161 THEN GOTO 4065
4880 IF B=162 THEN GOTO 4065
4885 IF B=163 THEN GOTO 4065
4890 IF B=164 THEN GOTO 4065
4895 IF B=165 THEN GOTO 4065
4900 IF B=166 THEN GOTO 4065
4905 IF B=167 THEN GOTO 4065
4910 IF B=168 THEN GOTO 4065
4915 IF B=169 THEN GOTO 4065
4920 IF B=170 THEN GOTO 4065
4925 IF B=171 THEN GOTO 4065
4930 IF B=172 THEN GOTO 4065
4935 IF B=173 THEN GOTO 4065
4940 IF B=174 THEN GOTO 4065
4945 IF B=175 THEN GOTO 4065
4950 IF B=176 THEN GOTO 4065
4955 IF B=177 THEN GOTO 4065
4960 IF B=178 THEN GOTO 4065
4965 IF B=179 THEN GOTO 4065
4970 IF B=180 THEN GOTO 4065
4975 IF B=181 THEN GOTO 4065
4980 IF B=182 THEN GOTO 4065
4985 IF B=183 THEN GOTO 4065
4990 IF B=184 THEN GOTO 4065
4995 IF B=185 THEN GOTO 4065
5000 IF B=186 THEN GOTO 4065
5005 IF B=187 THEN GOTO 4065
5010 IF B=188 THEN GOTO 4065
5015 IF B=189 THEN GOTO 4065
5020 IF B=190 THEN GOTO 4065
5025 IF B=191 THEN GOTO 4065
5030 IF B=192 THEN GOTO 4065
5035 IF B=193 THEN GOTO 4065
5040 IF B=194 THEN GOTO 4065
5045 IF B=195 THEN GOTO 4065
5050 IF B=196 THEN GOTO 4065
5055 IF B=197 THEN GOTO 4065
5060 IF B=198 THEN GOTO 4065
5065 IF B=199 THEN GOTO 4065
5070 IF B=200 THEN GOTO 4065
5075 IF B=201 THEN GOTO 4065
5080 IF B=202 THEN GOTO 4065
5085 IF B=203 THEN GOTO 4065
5090 IF B=204 THEN GOTO 4065
5095 IF B=205 THEN GOTO 4065
5100 IF B=206 THEN GOTO 4065
5105 IF B=207 THEN GOTO 4065
5110 IF B=208 THEN GOTO 4065
5115 IF B=209 THEN GOTO 4065
512
```

```

4300 address=NO: PRINT "Go to 4305A
4305 CLV: CONVERT "HEX/DEC DEC
4310 INPUT "HEX/DEC: " D$
4320 PRINT AT 20,5;"HEX/H of DEC"
4330 PR# 1: LET D$=INKEY$: IF
4340 D$="H" THEN GO TO 4350
4350 IF D$="H" THEN GO TO 4350
4360 INPUT AT 20,5;" " INPUT "DE
4370 cial number please " :DEC: LET D$
4380 DEC: DEC = HEX: PR# 1:
4390 PRINT AT 20,5;"HEX/DEC: " D$
4400 PR# 1: LET D$=INKEY$: IF
4410 D$="H" THEN GO TO 4420
4420 IF D$="H" THEN GO TO 4420
4430 PRINT AT 20,5;" "
4440 INPUT "4 Dig Hex.No, Please
4450 " :
4460 IF LEN H$=4 THEN GO TO 4470
4470 GO SUB S00: PRINT AT 15,21;"
4480 "HEX " H$ : D$ = DEC : "NO:"
4490 "HEX/DEC: " D$ : PR# 1:
4500 PR# 1: LET D$=INKEY$: IF
4510 D$="H" THEN GO TO 4520
4520 IF D$="H" THEN GO TO 4520
4530 CLV: INPUT "Hex Rvn Address
4540 " :
4550 IF LEN R$=4 THEN GO TO 4560
4560 LET H$=R$: GO SUB S00
4570 LET FLAG=FLAG+1
4580 LET FLAG=FLAG+1
4590 IF FLAG=1 THEN GO SUB 4590
4600 RETURN
4610 IF FLAG=2 TO 2: LET D$=0
4620
4630 LET H$="00": GO SUB S00
4640 LET DATA=0: POKE ADDRESS3,

```

Basic Monitor

by John Walsh

Better than Basic

Can you program in a computer language other than Basic?

Enter this challenging new competition and win a Jupiter Ace.

Basic, for all its advantages, is slow. Programs written in Basic tend to look rather pedestrian when compared to programs written in some other languages such as machine code.

We want something different, something faster than Basic. It could be machine code, Forth, Lisp, Pascal or Fortran. In fact, your entry can be written in anything that is not Basic. And the best non-Basic program, be it game, utility or other, will win the Jupiter Ace.

Entries to the award scheme must be accompanied by four of the numbered coupons published in *Popular Computing Weekly* throughout October. The closing date for the competition is November 18. The winning entry will be announced in the issue published on December 23.

Rules

1. There is no limit on the number of entries you can send in, but each entry must be accompanied by four differently numbered competition coupons.
2. Closing date for entries is November 18, 1982.
3. The names of the winners will be announced in the December 23 issue of Popular Computing Weekly.
4. The Judges' decision is final.
5. No employees of Sunshine Publications Ltd, or their families, will be eligible to enter the competition.

The entries will be judged by *Popular Computing Weekly* editor, Brendon Gore, and Jupiter Ace designers Richard Altwasser and Steve Vickers. In their selection account will be taken both of the standard of the program and of the accompanying documentation. The whole range of languages and types of program are allowed. The only stipulation is that it must not be written in Basic.



Popular Computing Weekly Better than Basic Competition

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Fill in this coupon. When you have collected four differently numbered coupons, send them with your program to: *Popular Computing Weekly*, Better than Basic, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2.



Line-up on shady characters

Malcolm Davison explains how to construct 3D cones and cylinders.

Having established how to draw an ellipse (Popular Computing Weekly, October 7), this article paves the way to constructing 3D representations of cones and cylinders, and introduces the idea of 'shading' to give the illusion of solidity.

To draw the cylinder, I first planned the drawing on graph paper marked with the plot and print positions. The lengths and positions of the major and minor axes can quickly be ascertained and the lengths of the lines between them.

Coding was straightforward, see 'cylinder'. Lines 60-140 and 400-510 draw the outline of the ellipse, while lines 795-812 draw a series of lines of the same length from different plot positions. The second half of the Plot statements in lines 400, 410, 500 and 510 are repeated for the Draw statements.

'Cylinder 2' is the same as 'cylinder' up to line 520, but adds a shading routine and draws the right-hand edge of the cylinder. The shading effect is produced by plotting the circumference of an ellipse, but reducing the frequency of the plotting points (lines 795 and 796), and then using these points as the starting position for a Draw statement. Line 794 draws the top line on the cylinder.

Cylinder development

The 'cone' is a development of the cylinder. Lines 1-530 draw the ellipse and lines 620-637 draw the left-hand lines to the tip of the cone. Lines 650-654 draw the right-hand lines and lines 685-690 draw the lines to the extremities of the ellipse.

'Pattern 1' starts as a straightforward plot of an ellipse. The value of the major axis (*m*) is increased during each loop. While the count 'a' in line 90 is sufficient for the first full circumference of the ellipse, as 'm' increases it falls short for subsequent loops. As a result, it produces curves to the left and right of the ellipse.

'Pattern 2' is the result of repeatedly plotting an ellipse further along the x axes. The program runs for about three-quarters of an hour. If you want a record of it, store it on tape using Save 'pattern 2' Screen.

If you want an intermediate printout just press the Shift and Break keys, followed by Copy. After the printout is complete, press Continue. If at any time you want to know how far the program has got — break into the program and type Lprint j, which will print the value of the loop count (1 to 50) onto the printer and so will not affect the display. Then press Continue.



```

1 REM "cylinder"
2 PAPER 1: INK 0: BORDER 0: C
L5
60 DEF FN V(M,N,A)=INT SQR ((M
72)=-(M**2/N**2)+12**2))
70 DEF FN W(M,N,A)=INT SQR ((M
72)=-(M**2/N**2)+12**2))
80 LET A=0: LET N=50: LET F=5
90 FOR A=0 TO 17 STEP 1
100 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
110 LET V=FN V(M,N,A)
120 FOR A=0 TO 0 STEP -1
130 LET X=FN W(M,N,A): GO SUB 5
95
100 GO TO 795
400 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT A+F.5-Y
410 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT A+F.5-Y
420 NEXT A: RETURN
500 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT F+0.5-Y
510 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT F+0.5-Y
520 NEXT A: RETURN
790 FOR A=0 TO 15 STEP 1
794 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
800 PLOT A+F.5-Y: DRAW 144,0
810 NEXT A
820 LET A=0 TO 0 STEP -1
830 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
840 PLOT F+0.5-Y: DRAW 144,0
812 NEXT A
    
```



```

1 REM "cylinder2"
2 PAPER 1: INK 0: BORDER 0: C
L5
60 DEF FN V(M,N,A)=INT SQR ((M
72)=-(M**2/N**2)+12**2))
70 DEF FN W(M,N,A)=INT SQR ((M
72)=-(M**2/N**2)+12**2))
80 LET A=0: LET N=50: LET F=5
90 FOR A=0 TO 17 STEP 1
100 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
110 GO SUB 400
120 FOR A=0 TO 0 STEP -1
130 LET X=FN W(M,N,A): GO SUB 5
95
100 GO TO 794
400 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT A+F.5-Y
410 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT A+F.5-Y
420 NEXT A: RETURN
500 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT F+0.5-Y
510 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT F+0.5-Y
520 NEXT A: RETURN
790 FOR A=0 TO 23 STEP 1
794 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
796 LET V=FN V(M,N,A)
798 PLOT A+F.5-Y: DRAW 144,0
800 NEXT A
810 LET A=0 TO 15 STEP 1
814 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
820 PLOT A+F.5-Y: PLOT A+F.5-Y
830 NEXT A
840 FOR A=0 TO 0 STEP -1
850 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
860 PLOT F+0.5-Y: PLOT F+0.5-Y
870 NEXT A
    
```

```

1 REM "cone"
2 PAPER 7: INK 0: BORDER 2: C
L5
60 DEF FN V(M,N,A)=INT SQR ((M
72)=-(M**2/N**2)+12**2))
70 DEF FN W(M,N,A)=INT SQR ((M
72)=-(M**2/N**2)+12**2))
80 LET A=0: LET N=50: LET F=5
90 FOR A=0 TO 17 STEP 1
100 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
110 LET V=FN V(M,N,A)
120 FOR A=0 TO 0 STEP -1
130 LET X=FN W(M,N,A): GO SUB 5
95
100 GO TO 795
400 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT A+F.5-Y
410 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT A+F.5-Y
420 NEXT A: RETURN
500 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT F+0.5-Y
510 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT F+0.5-Y
520 NEXT A: RETURN
790 FOR A=0 TO 23 STEP 1
794 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
800 PLOT A+F.5-Y: DRAW 127+A-F,
810 NEXT A
820 LET A=0 TO 15 STEP 1
824 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
830 PLOT F+0.5-Y: DRAW 127+A-F,
840 NEXT A
850 PLOT 150,47: DRAW 30,00
860 PLOT 150,47: DRAW -50,00
    
```



```

1 REM "pattern1"
2 PAPER 1: INK 7: BORDER 0: C
L5
60 DEF FN V(M,N,A)=INT SQR ((M
72)=-(M**2/N**2)+12**2))
70 DEF FN W(M,N,A)=INT SQR ((M
72)=-(M**2/N**2)+12**2))
80 LET A=0: LET N=50: LET F=5
90 FOR A=0 TO 17 STEP 1
100 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
110 GO SUB 400
120 FOR A=0 TO 0 STEP -1
130 LET X=FN W(M,N,A): GO SUB 5
95
100 GO TO 794
400 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT A+F.5-Y
410 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT A+F.5-Y
420 NEXT A: RETURN
500 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT F+0.5-Y
510 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT F+0.5-Y
520 NEXT A: RETURN
790 FOR A=0 TO 23 STEP 1
794 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
796 LET V=FN V(M,N,A)
798 PLOT A+F.5-Y: DRAW 127+A-F,
800 NEXT A
810 LET A=0 TO 15 STEP 1
814 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
820 PLOT F+0.5-Y: DRAW 127+A-F,
830 NEXT A
840 PLOT 150,47: DRAW 30,00
850 PLOT 150,47: DRAW -50,00
    
```



```

1 REM "pattern2"
2 PAPER 1: INK 7: BORDER 0: C
L5
60 DEF FN V(M,N,A)=INT SQR ((M
72)=-(M**2/N**2)+12**2))
70 DEF FN W(M,N,A)=INT SQR ((M
72)=-(M**2/N**2)+12**2))
80 LET A=0: LET N=50: LET F=5
90 FOR A=0 TO 17 STEP 1
100 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
110 GO SUB 400
120 FOR A=0 TO 0 STEP -1
130 LET X=FN W(M,N,A): GO SUB 5
95
100 GO TO 794
400 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT A+F.5-Y
410 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT A+F.5-Y
420 NEXT A: RETURN
500 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT F+0.5-Y
510 PLOT F-0.5-Y: PLOT F+0.5-Y
520 NEXT A: RETURN
790 FOR A=0 TO 23 STEP 1
794 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
796 LET V=FN V(M,N,A)
798 PLOT A+F.5-Y: DRAW 127+A-F,
800 NEXT A
810 LET A=0 TO 15 STEP 1
814 LET W=FN W(M,N,A)
820 PLOT F+0.5-Y: DRAW 127+A-F,
830 NEXT A
840 PLOT 150,47: DRAW 30,00
850 PLOT 150,47: DRAW -50,00
    
```


Channelling musical talents

The next command, on line 330, is very useful. It detects a string or a character, within a string, and stores its value, eg if B\$ had been Z, then *Instr(A\$,B\$)* would be one.

21

unfair US version of Pontoon, 21 or Vingt-et-un, where you have to beat the dealer's hand, not merely equal it. Craps is the dice game so favoured in Western saloons and *Roulette* will take you and your wallet to Monte Carlo. The graphics on the first two games are good, although *Roulette* cheats a little by only showing the section of the wheel containing the ball.

All the games are well-written and appeared close to the originals in terms of the speed at which they emptied your pockets. Indeed, my innocent little Spectrum was the object of much abuse, accusations of cheating, etc, when this cassette was produced late one evening. After one run of particularly abysmal luck, I wondered if this cassette was not in fact financed by the Salvation Army as a demonstration of the pitfalls of gambling. If you are a financial masochist, this is obviously the tape for you.

The last section of Spectrum software comprises some of the utility programs available.

Character Programmer (ZedXtra Software) allows you to define your own 8 x 8 graphic characters on a large grid on the screen. It comes with clear, if mis-spelt documentation, as well as data to define invaders, tanks, aircraft, etc. Although it does a satisfactory job in defining and storing the new characters, I find it easier to scribble away on a piece of graph paper.

If you have to have a character generator program, then better value would be to acquire Altwater's *Cambridge Colour Collection* which contains a similar program (plus 19 others) or Automata's *Character Generator* which also contains many different character sets ready programmed. Indeed, most Spectrum owners will by now be the proud possessors of Sinclair's apology cassette, *Horizons*, which contains an excellent character program.

Rushed finish

Picture Maker (JVV Software) is, quite frankly, a muddle. There is no documentation, and few instructions on screen. It is not mug-trapped at all, and frequently produces error messages even when the correct entry is made. From a glance at the listing, it could have had some potential, but shows clear signs of a rushed finish or the ZX Microfair. It is not in the same league as, say, *Green Warrior*, from the same firm.

The last utility program is *Superdraw* from Video Software. This has to be tremendous value. Five pounds will bring you an excellent high and low resolution drawing program, with circle, colour fill and large and small text options, a screen design pad, an easy-to-understand instruction booklet and a spoken commentary on the reverse of the tape.

To further demonstrate the potential of this program, there are several stored screen displays, including a detailed map of Southern England as well as a redefinable large character set. Any picture drawn with this program can be stored in your own programs — I wish all software houses offered such good value for money.

Machine Code

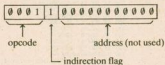
Ian Stewart and Robin Jones present a new series for beginners

... the day after tomorrow

There are only two registers left to discuss, and both have similar functions — they can both alter the address part of an instruction while the program is running.

Indirection

Let us have a look at the I-register first. We will invent a new opcode, *Ldi* or "load indirect". Like *Hlt*, it doesn't have an address associated with it. To the machine, it's just like an *Ld* instruction except that the high bit of the address field is set to "1". This bit is called the *indirection flag*, and simply indicates to the computer that indirection is in force. So the binary form of the *Ldi* instruction is:



The hex code is 1800. When the computer encounters this instruction, it uses whatever number is in the I-register as the effective address. So if the I-register contains 1E4 and an *Ldi* instruction is executed, the effect is exactly the same as if the instruction had been *Ld* 1E4. In other words, the I-register acts as a memory pointer, and we can move it around to our heart's content if we can do arithmetic with it. That means moving values into the A-register, because that's the only place we can do arithmetic. So we'll invent an opcode *Xai* for "exchange contents of A-register with contents of I-register".

The indirection flag can be set for any instruction which has an address part. So we can have *Sti*, *Jpi*, *Addi*, etc, and in each case, the last three digits of the hex code will be 800.

An example

Let's look at an example which uses these ideas. Suppose that we want to initialise a 1D array of length 20, to hold the numbers 2, 4, 6, 8, ... 40. In other words we want a machine code equivalent of the Basic:

```
FORC = 1 TO 20
  LETA(C) = C*2
NEXT C
```

There is a series of values which is going to have to be stored in memory somewhere, to make this work. They are 1 (because the loop count goes up in ones),

2 (because that's the increment for the array contents) and 20 (which is needed to test for the end of the loop).

For the moment, we do not want to be bothered with exactly where these numbers should be stored, so we are going to refer to these addresses temporarily by names (just like Basic names). We'll have to convert these to numbers when we finally get to machine code, of course. This is an application of Jones's First Law of Computing: "Never put off till tomorrow what you can put off till the day after."

So, we'll assume that the numbers we want are available in locations called N1, N2 and N20. Similarly, we'll have a location called *Base* which holds the address of the first element of the array, and one called *Count* which will act as the loop counter.

First, we set the I-register to point to the base of the array:

```
LD   BASE
XAI
```

Then we set the *Count* to 1:

```
LD   N1
ST   COUNT
```

Now we double this (by adding it back into the A-register) and store it in the location pointed at by the I-register. (We talk about "storing through the I-register" for short.)

```
ADD  COUNT
STI
```

We "undouble" the value on the A-register again, subtract 20 and see if the result is zero. If it is we've finished:

```
SUB  COUNT
SUB  N20
JPZ  OUT
```

Out is another, as yet unspecified, address. We don't know where it is yet, because we don't know where the program ends, and so, again, it's useful to give it a name temporarily.

If the branch doesn't occur, we add 1 to the *Count*:

```
LD   COUNT
ADD  N1
ST   COUNT
```

and increment the I-register by 1:

```
XAI
ADD  N1
XAI
```

The current *Count* is now back in the A-register, so we can loop back to the doubling operation:

```
JP   LOOP
```

provided we give the "Add Count" instruction the symbolic address "Loop". Let's do this by preceding the instruction by its symbolic address followed by a colon:

```
LOOP: ADD COUNT
```

Reproduced from *Machine Code and better Basic*, by Ian Stewart and Robin Jones (price £7.50), by kind permission of Shiva Publishing Ltd, 4 Church Lane, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5RQ.

If you have any machine code sub-routines/tips/games, please send them to: Machine Code, *Popular Computing Weekly*, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2 7HF.

Peek & poke

Peek your problems to our address. Ian Beardsmore will poke back an answer.

COMMAND PERFORMANCE

Howard Roberts of Stockport, Cheshire, writes:

Q We have just got our BBC model B. I would like to know if there is a way of disabling the Break key.

A This is done by the command:

• KEY 10 "—"

where the instruction you want up on the screen when you press Break is between the inverted commas. This is most commonly used for restoring and running the program, which would take the form:

• KEY 10 "OLD" M RUN M "

CALLING NAMES AT RANDOM

I McIntosh of the Cheviots, Oban, Scotland, writes:

Q I have just received my 48K Spectrum, after what seems like a long wait, and I am very pleased with it. I would like to use it to draw names at random. I do not need a lot of names, and it does not matter if they are repeated sometimes. I have tried splitting a string using To but that only gives me bits, not complete words. Can you help?

A This program should do the job. I have used a colon as the marker between each word, but other symbols could be used. If you have a really long list of names, you might find it convenient to break the A5 into several strings. Remember that once you have entered the string you must use Goto 30, or else you will wipe it out:

```
10 DIM AS (Total length of the string you want)
20 INPUT AS
30 LET Z = INT (RND * Last but one colon) + 1
40 IF AS(Z) = " " THEN GOTO 100
50 IF NOT AS(Z) = " " THEN GOTO 30
100 LET Z = Z + 1
110 PRINT AS(Z):
120 IF AS(Z) = " " THEN GOTO 290
130 IF NOT AS(Z) = " " THEN GOTO 100
200 PRINT "ANOTHER GO?"
210 INPUT BS
220 IF BS = "S" THEN STOP
230 PRINT
240 GOTO 30
```

Because I have used a Dimension for the string AS, it is possible to look at every member of that string. Each word is separated from the

others by a colon. For example, you might start A5 off with:

"DAVID:IAN:RICHARD:..."

Line 30 selects a random number, which is checked to see if it is a colon. When a colon is found, the characters between that colon and the next are printed in a line. Remember when Dimensioning your string to allow space for the colons. Your Rnd number should be the last colon but one, as your string should start and end with a colon.

COMPUTER DECATHLON

Andrew Lennox of Tring, Hertfordshire, writes:

Q I have recently ordered a BBC Model B micro. Apart from hoping that I will not have to wait months and months, I would like to know if it will be possible to chain programs on it. I want to write a computer decathlon of short games where the player will have to go from game to game with no time for resting in between. The program must also Run as soon as it has Loaded. How do I do this?

A The command that you are looking for is Chain "filename". Another way round the problem would be to write the 10 sub-routines as one, using 10 sub-routines. If the programs really are short, there should be enough memory available. It would also mean that you could keep a running score from routine to routine.

TRIAL AND ERROR

Raymond Connell, Stenhousemuir, Stirlingshire, Scotland, writes:

Q Could you please tell me how I can find out which chips are, or are not, working in my Sinclair 16K Ram pack? While trying out another power supply, because the Sinclair one could not handle my ZX81, Ram pack and Maplin keyboard, smoke appeared from the back of my Ram pack. Although everything works perfectly now, I found that I only have 13K of Ram left. I would like to replace the damaged ICs but do not know how to isolate the faulty chips.

As my ZX81 was in kit form,

I use my own power supply. Could you recommend another one.

A I do not know any way of finding out which chips are faulty other than by trial and error. Replace each chip in turn until the culprit/s are found.

It would seem that the problem is not with one of the 4116s but with one of the support chips. Either part of the memory is not being addressed, or you have a failure in the Refresh signal somewhere. In practice, I'm afraid that it would be easier to buy a new Ram pack or make do with 13K.

As for the correct power supply, the one supplied by Sinclair is the obvious choice. Sinclair's earlier supplies were less than one amp, but the later ones are a little above one amp, which may be enough for your needs.

The one person I know who uses a kit-built ZX81 also built his own power supply which is just over two amps. I think your best option would be to ask your local electrical shop if they can recommend a supply.

DECISION TIME

S Dennison of Simmonds Way, Chelmsford, Essex, writes:

Q I have owned a ZX81 for four months. I am now thinking of buying a graphics Rom expansion both for games and because lower case letters would be helpful in other programs.

The Roms that I have seen advertised are by Kayde, DK-tronics, and Quicksilva. I want to buy one that is simple, and preferably does not require any soldering.

I have already spent £25 on a Ram pack. I wonder if it would be better to sell my system and get a Spectrum instead.

A This is a decision that only you can make. But, you must keep in mind the number of user-defined graphics that you want. The Spectrum can only use 20 at once (A to U). While this should ordinarily be more than sufficient, every letter that you assign a graphics character to cannot then be used as a letter either in upper or lower case.

Any of the graphic Roms

that you mention will increase the potential of your character font considerably. But, each time you power up you will have to program the definitions of each character, unless you store the definitions on tape and Load them as a separate program. However, the graphics 4K Rom from DK-tronics gives you about 450 extra 'ready made' characters.

Fitting the DK-tronics chips will mean soldering, though only three connections are involved. Quicksilva's User-Defined Graphics Chip can be fitted without soldering, if you use the QS motherboard or the QS connector.

FLIGHT PATH

Tim Deans, Mallowdale, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, writes:

Q I have been trying to write a Basic games program on my Vic20, but I am having problems with inputs. For example, a player is flying a plane on a level course. If he wishes to increase his height, he presses key 1. The computer checks for this with an Input A, and then If A = 1 then ...

However, if the player does not Input a command the computer prints a prompt on the screen and waits for a command to be Input. How can I make an Input that will work only when a key is pressed and ignore it if a key is not pressed?

A By the very nature of the command Input it cannot be ignored. The instruction you need to look at is the Get command, which can create a similar effect. Try this short routine:

```
10 GET AS
20 IF AS < "1" OR AS > "2" THEN
   GOTO 300
30 IF AS = "1" THEN GOTO 100
40 IF AS = "2" THEN GOTO 200
100 PRINT "Aeroplane goes higher":
   GOTO 10
200 PRINT "Aeroplane goes lower":
   GOTO 10
300 PRINT "No change": GOTO 10
```

I have put this into a loop, but you can break out of it easily enough. There could be more instructions at lines 100 and 200 as these would form the subroutines that actually move your aeroplane on the screen. In this example I have used Goto instead of Gosub because a "2" Input would Return you to the start of the next subroutine (100).

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- Sinclair 16K extended BASIC—incorporating unique 'one-touch' keyword entry, syntax check, and report codes.

rum



The ZX Printer—available now

Designed exclusively for use with the Sinclair ZX range of computers, the printer offers ZX Spectrum owners the full ASCII character set—including lower-case characters and high-resolution graphics.

A special feature is COPY which prints out exactly what is on the whole TV screen without the need for further instructions. Printing speed is 50 characters per second, with 32 characters per line and 9 lines per vertical inch.

The ZX Printer connects to the rear of your ZX Spectrum. A roll of paper (65ft long and 4in wide) is supplied, along with full instructions. Further supplies of paper are available in packs of five rolls.



The ZX Microdrive—coming soon

The new Microdrives, designed especially for the ZX Spectrum, are set to change the face of personal computing.

Each Microdrive is capable of holding up to 100K bytes using a single interchangeable microfloppy.

The transfer rate is 16K bytes per second, with average access time of 3.5 seconds. And you'll be able to connect up to 8 ZX Microdrives to your ZX Spectrum.

All the BASIC commands required for the Microdrives are included on the Spectrum.

A remarkable breakthrough at a remarkable price. The Microdrives are available later this year, for around £50.



RS232/network interface board

This interface, available later this year, will enable you to connect your ZX Spectrum to a whole host of printers, terminals and other computers.

The potential is enormous. And the astonishingly low price of only £20 is possible only because the operating systems are already designed into the ROM.

How to order your ZX Spectrum

BY PHONE—Access, Barclaycard or Trustcard holders can call 01-200 0200 for personal attention 24 hours a day, every day. BY FREEPOST—use the no-stamp needed coupon below. You can pay by cheque, postal order, Access,

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EITHER WAY—please allow up to 28 days for delivery. And there's a 14-day money-back option, of course. We want you to be satisfied beyond doubt—and we have no doubt that you will be.

ZX Spectrum

Available only by mail order and only from

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Stanhope Road, Camberley,
Surrey, GU15 3PS.
Tel: Camberley (0276) 685311.

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Order

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| | Sinclair ZX Spectrum—48K RAM version | 101 | 175.00 | |
| | Sinclair ZX Printer | 27 | 59.95 | |
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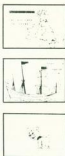
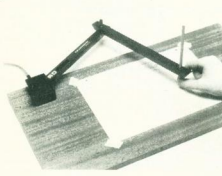
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NEW

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RD DIGITAL TRACER £49.95



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The RD DIGITAL TRACER is available only from RD Laboratories. The price of £49.95 includes P & P and VAT. Send your cheque now for delivery in 28 days. (Cheques payable to "RD Laboratories".) The RD DIGITAL TRACER is supplied with tracing sheet, software cassette, and full instructions on use.

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